



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

RABID FOX CAUSES HAVOC IN PERINTON

Monroe County health officials learned today that a fox that rampaged through a neighborhood in Perinton on Saturday, April 1, 2000 was rabid. Perinton Animal Control officers trapped and euthanized the fox which had earlier attacked both people and pets in a neighborhood just east of the village of Fairport, near the intersection of the Erie Canal and Turk Hill Road.

Monroe County health officials have spoken to seven families to determine the extent of their exposure and pet involvement with the rabid fox. It has not been determined if anyone will require treatment. Several pets that had previously received their rabies shots were given boosters.

Rabies vaccination is required by law for both dogs and cats. Health officials strongly recommend pet vaccination as it provides a barrier to prevent the transmission of rabies from a pet to a person. Unvaccinated pets that come in contact with rabid animals have to be euthanized or quarantined for six months.

The Monroe County Health Department sponsors free pet rabies clinics throughout the year. A clinic is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Petsmart in Brockport. Cats and dogs belonging to Monroe County residents can be immunized at the clinic.

The Monroe County Health Department's Rabies Clinic schedule can be found on the County's web site at www.co.monroe.ny.us/health/rabies2000.stm or by calling 274-6864.

Do not feed, touch, or take in any wild or stray animals. If exposed to an animal that may be rabid, immediately wash the affected area with soap and water and call a doctor. All bites or exposures should be reported to the Health Department. Aggressive or menacing animals on your property should be reported to 911.

This incident marks the fourth rabid animal this year in Monroe County: three raccoons and one gray fox. Spring marks a time that wild animals become more active, often foraging for food to feed their young.

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